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the resultant wash solution containing the fat-soluble compound is collected from near the top of, or above, the fluidised bed of crystalline metallic ore particles.

5.(Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 further including the step of collecting the crystalline-metallic-ore-fat-soluble-compound complex prior to providing a wash solution and contacting the wash solution with the crystalline-metallic-ore-fat-soluble-compound complex.

7.(Amended) A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein the crystalline-metallic-ore-fat-soluble-compound complex is dried and stored for a period prior to being contacted with the wash solution.

8.(Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the fat-soluble compound is present in the aqueous solution within a number of cells and the aqueous solution is a culture media.

10.(Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the fat-soluble compound is a natural pigment.

13.(Amended) A substantially pure fat-soluble compound obtained using the method of claim 1.--